

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6356

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1063

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ESCAP, ID

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT TO INDONESIA BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG

REF: STATE 017103

1. VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO INDONESIA WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS COUNTRY AND TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO OUR POLICY STATEMENTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS A PACIFIC POWER AND HAS A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. KEY INDONESIANS HAVE FELT THAT SOUTHEAST ASIA GENERALLY AND THIS COUNTRY PARTICULARLY HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BY THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THIS FEELING HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY VISITS OF TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO SOUTH ASIA AND NORTHEAST ASIA AND BY CONTINUED PROBLEMS WITH U.S. REGULATORY AGENCIES (THE IRS AND THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION/DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY), AND OUR SLOWNESS TO RESPOND TO THEIR REQUEST TO PURCHASE F-5S AND ESTABLISH AN
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M-16 COPRODUCTION FACILITY. THEY HAVE TENDED TO VIEW THESE PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL TERMS AND IN SOME CASES HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS BY THESE MEANS SIGNALING REDUCED INTEREST IN THE REGION. A VISIT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD HELP DISPEL THESE MISCONCEPTIONS.

2. THE MAIN PROBLEM CONCERNING THIS VISIT IS THE TIMING. BATTLE

LINES ARE BEING MORE SHARPLY DRAWN BETWEEN THE STUDENTS AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND WE EXPECT CONTINUED, AND PERHAPS VIOLENT, CLASHES BEFORE AND PERHAPS DURING THE MARCH MEETING OF THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY. A VISIT IN APRIL, AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE OVER AND THE CABINET RECONSTITUTED, WOULD BE FAR MORE PRODUCTIVE. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE THEN I URGE THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISIT JAKARTA BEFORE THE ESCAP MEETING AND PRIOR TO CONVENING OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 12. FROM THAT DATE UNTIL THE END OF MARCH KEY LEADERS HERE WILL BE TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND, WHILE WE COULD UNDOUBTEDLY OBTAIN THE DESIRED APPOINTMENTS, THE BENEFITS IN TERMS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED. THERE WOULD ALSO BE THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT COINCIDING WITH AN INTERNAL POLITICAL CLASH.

3. WHENEVER THE VISIT TAKES PLACE, I WOULD HOPE AMBASSADOR YOUNG COULD SPEND THE BETTER PART OF THREE DAYS IN INDONESIA. I WOULD WANT HIM TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS SENIOR STAFF, AND MINISTER OF STATE WIDJOJO WHO HAS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MATTERS RELATED TO THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. WE WOULD ALSO ARRANGE FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO MEET A CROSS-SECTION OF LOCAL OPINION LEADERS AT VARIOUS FUNCTIONS. I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO TAKE HIM OUT OF JAKARTA FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY TO GET A FEEL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN THIS COUNTRY AND WHAT WE ARE DOING ABOUT THEM. A ONE-DAY (ALBEIT A HECTIC DAY) CAR TRIP TO THE BOGOR AND

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SUKABUMI AREAS SOUTH OF JAKARTA WOULD ENABLE THE AMBASSADOR TO SEE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN THE KEY FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE AND FAMILY PLANNING. THIS WOULD INCLUDE VISITS TO THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY IN BOGOR, THE CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TO SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION AND RURAL WORKS PROJECTS.

4. IN BRIEF, I HOPE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO VISIT INDONESIA SOMETIME AFTER THE MIDDLE OF APRIL WHEN THE POLITICAL SITUATION WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE SETTLED DOWN. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE AND IF HE PLANS TO VISIT THE OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS DURING MARCH, THEN I THINK WE SHOULD DEFINITELY PLAN FOR A VISIT TO JAKARTA, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETS ON MARCH 12.

MASTERS

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